

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

On page 1, before the title "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following paragraph:

A' -- This application claims the benefit of international application no. PCT/US99/19091, filed August 20, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Application 09/137,283, filed August 20, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,168,709, granted January 2, 2001. --

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-14, and 77-87.

REMARKS

The present application was filed under 35 USC 371 claiming priority to international application no. PCT/US99/19091, filed August 20, 1999, and United States Application No. 09/137,283, filed August 20, 1998. As a result of the foregoing amendments, claims 15-76 are pending in the above-identified application. The fee for the pending claims is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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